losses, improvements in Plant Load Factor (PLF), equity participation by the State Governments, opening of Letters of Credit by SEBs with the generation companies such as National Thermal Power Corporation, Powergrid Corporation etc.

Power generation capacity in the country

666. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total power generation capacity in the country as on 15th February, 1997;

(b) what capacity is required to meet the demand and what is the amount of money required in this regard;

(c) the details of steps taken including private sector participation to achieve the goal; and

(d) the success achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) As per the latest available data, total power generation capacity in the country as on 1.1.1997 is 83510.84 MW.

(b) The Ninth Plan is under finalisation. However, it is assessed that a need based capacity addition of around 7,000 MW and a fund requirement of over Rs. 3,00,000 crores for generation, transmission and distribution schemes would be needed to meet the projected demand for power during the Plan.

(c) and (d) The policy initiatives taken in this regard, inter alia, include encouraging private sector participation by providing more liberal administrative, legal and financial environment, streamlining and simplification of requirements for clearances, short and long term measures to improve productivity of existing assets and facilitating reforms and restructuring of State Electricity Boards. A Common Minimum National Action Plan has been adopted in December, 1996 for improving the performance of power sector in a time bound manner.

Growth rate of power generation

667. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the growth rate of power generation during the financial year 1995-96 and during the period from April to December, 1996;

(b) the reasons for the sharp decline;

(c) the targeted rate of growth and estimated achievement during 1996-97; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to accelerate power generation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) The growth in power generation during 1995-96 and April—December, 1996 over the corresponding period of previous years was 8.3% and 3.5% respectively. The main reason for decline in growth rate of power generation during the current year is fall in hydel power generation.

(c) During April—December, 1996 power generation in the country was 291.5 BU compared to power generation of 281.6 BU during April—December, 1995 which represent a growth rate of 3.6% against the target rate of growth of 5.1% fixed for 1996-97.

(d) Amongst the measures undertaken for increasing power generation are higher utilisation of installed capacity, reducing auxiliary power consumption, modernisation and uprating of existing power stations and initiating schemes for reducing transmission and distribution losses.